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April 10, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Talk with Barefoot Sanders, United States Attorney,
in Dallas, April 8, 1964, 5:45 to 6:15 P.M.

Mr. Sanders discussed with me Mr. Robert Davis, who is the representative of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas with the staff of the President's Commission in Dallas. Sanders stated that members of his staff have told him that Davis was apparently convinced that the President's assassination was the result of a Communist-Internationalist plot. Sanders expressed concern about the possibility of the Texas Attorney General's Office issuing its own report on the assassination of the President and the effect that Davis might have on such a report. Sanders thought that Leon Jaworski and Robert Storey, advisers to Attorney General Carr on the assassination investigation, would exercise a moderating influence on any such report. He expressed the opinion that it would be unfortunate if a report by the Texas Attorney General's Office turned out to be sensational or substantially different from that of the President's Commission. He implied that he hoped that the Texas Attorney General's Office would not make any report at all.

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Sanders also told me that Assistant District Attorney William Alexander and the Dallas police had originally planned to charge Oswald with murder as part of the Communist-Internationalist conspiracy. Sanders had tried to persuade them against this and had tried to get hold of District Attorney Wade, but Wade was out for the evening at what was apparently a prolonged dinner party. Sanders eventually persuaded the police and Alexander to charge Oswald simply with murder and to omit the conspiracy charge, since there was no evidence to support it.

Sanders also spoke of the plan of Texas Attorney General Carr to hold a court of inquiry. He thought it possible that this idea may have been originally suggested by President Johnson on Monday, November 25, the day of President Kennedy's funeral. He thought, however, that the idea had been killed since, and he indicated that he did not consider it a good idea.

In the course of conversations with Mr. Davis on April 7 and 8, I received the same impression of his views and attitudes as Mr. Sanders conveyed to me. Davis stated that he was convinced that there had been a Communist-Internationalist plot, and he stated his belief that there was

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some connection between Oswald and Ruby. He felt that the only logical explanation of Oswald's movements after he left 1026 North Beckley at about 1:00 p.m. on November 22 was that he was heading for Ruby's apartment on Ewing Street. He stated that Oswald had probably panicked on being confronted by Tippit, and that, because he had panicked and was therefore no longer reliable, it had been necessary to eliminate him. The job had been given to Ruby to do. Davis stated that he thought that Congress should pass legislation to curb all of the Marxist Communists in the country. He felt that killing was a normal thing for Marxists and Communists, and he stated that the country would not wake up until all the Senators and other officials were killed. He thought that it would have been very bad for the country if Lyndon Johnson had been killed at the same time as President Kennedy. He was very strong in his views but offered no evidence to support them.

Mr. Belin told me on the evening of April 8 that his impression of Davis was precisely the same as that of Mrs. Sanders and that it was based upon conversations with Davis. He said that Davis had told him that he would not be reassured or convinced that there was no link between Ruby and Oswald unless Ruby submitted to a polygraph test. Mr. Belin indicated that he thought this suggestion was probably a good one from the standpoint of the Commission.

Alfred Goldberg

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